



# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## EXPANDED ACCESS TO QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE



Governor Whitmer is prioritizing the health and well-being of every Michigander by ensuring access to quality, affordable health care and lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

### Lowering the cost of prescription drugs

- Signed a bill [lowering the cost of prescription drugs](#) and increasing pharmacy oversight.
- Signed a bill protecting Michiganders against [surprise medical billing](#).
- Signed a bill fostering more [competitive health care pricing](#).
- Established [Prescription Drugs Task Force](#) and is implementing their recommendations to drive down costs, promote transparency, and improve health outcomes.
- Supported Attorney General Nessel's work to [hold drug companies accountable](#) for [skyrocketing insulin prices](#) and called on the legislature to cap insulin costs.
- [Proposed](#) an independent, nonpartisan prescription drug affordability board to tackle the cost of prescription drugs.
- Signed an [executive directive](#) to determine how the State of Michigan can lower the cost of insulin, including by developing its own manufacturing capabilities.

### Expanding health care access and affordability

- Extended [Healthy Michigan](#) to [over 1 million people](#), and [eliminated red tape](#), lowering costs for working families.
- [Expanded dental care](#) for Medicaid or Healthy Michigan enrollees, lowering their costs.
- Expanded access to [telemedicine](#) and required insurers to [cover telehealth](#).
- [Invested \\$300 million](#) in health care worker training, recruitment, and retention and signed [loan forgiveness](#) for health professionals working in medically underserved communities.
- Enacted a [\\$2 per hour](#) raise for direct care workers, [proposed](#) an additional raise.
- Increased [access to mental health](#) by retaining or recruiting hundreds of mental health workers and expanded crisis stabilization programs.
- [Signed a budget](#) increasing reimbursement rates to Medicaid so more can access Medicaid services, expanding access to mental health services at school, and expanding Plan First!, helping 25,000 Michiganders strengthen reproductive freedom.
- [Issued](#) an all-hands-on-deck executive directive to keep Michiganders insured following the end of Medicaid continuous enrollment.
- Secured funding to build a [new state psychiatric hospital](#), expanding inpatient capacity.
- Supported Attorney General Nessel's work to [sue major opioid distributors](#) as drug dealers. Won historic [\\$800 million settlement fight opioid addiction](#).
- [Signed bills](#) to raise the minimum age of tobacco sales from 18 to 21.
- Signed bills [expanding access to naloxone](#) for those experiencing an opioid overdose.
- Signed an [executive directive](#) instructing departments to find ways to lower costs and protect coverage for Michiganders at risk of losing coverage for health care.
- Took [action to protect](#) preventive health care coverage after a federal court struck the requirement from the ACA.
- Opened new 100-bed [Caro Psychiatric Hospital](#), boosting access to mental healthcare.
- [Proposed](#) codifying the Affordable Care Act in Michigan to lower costs and boost access to healthcare.

### Addressing health inequities

- Consistently [invested](#) and expanded in [Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies](#), an initiative to address disproportionate racial impacts of maternal and infant mortality and ensure moms have the support they need for healthy pregnancies, deliveries, and postpartum care.
- Established the Racial Disparities Task Force and made "lasting structural change." Released [a report](#) detailing progress made and actions still to be taken to close disparities.
- Made [investments](#) to reduce health disparities, including Sickle Cell treatment, and [invested](#) nearly \$50 million to implement their recommendations.
- Required medical professionals to undergo implicit [unconscious bias training](#).
- [Signed a budget](#) with investments to prevent water utility shut offs, Children's Special Health Services program.

### Bolstered programs to support families, lower costs

- Eliminated [asset test requirements](#) to allow people to receive food aid and other public assistance while they plan for a stable future, lowering their costs on the essentials.
- [Provided](#) free breakfast and lunch to all 1.4 million public school students and forgiving all school meal debt.
- Removed red tape for benefit programs through proactive referrals, cross-enrollment processes, simplified requirements, and increased online access.
- Signed [legislation](#) continuing vital energy assistance programs for low-income families.
- Created the [Food Security Council](#) to identify opportunities to reduce food insecurity.
- [Proposed](#) statewide paid family and medical leave program to help workers care for loved ones, bond with newborns, and recover when they're sick.

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